

# 2018 Summary

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## BRISTOL BAY SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA



### Naknek River

Based on inseason information from anglers and guides, the inriver king salmon abundance appeared to be good for the duration of the season from mid-June through late July and effort appeared to be near average.

#### Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

### Alagnak River

On August 21, 2018, a peak aerial survey estimate of 988 king salmon indicated the run may have fallen below the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 2,700 salmon. Inseason reports from anglers and guides contradicted aerial survey information and indicated a good inriver abundance of king salmon throughout the season and effort appeared to be near average.

#### Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

### Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The preliminary estimate of king salmon passing the Portage Creek sonar was 97,239 salmon. King salmon are managed to achieve an inriver return of 95,000 fish, to provide for 55,000-120,000 spawning salmon.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence catch information also indicated a strong return throughout the season. Approximately 35,000 king salmon were harvested during the sockeye salmon commercial fishery. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not available; nonetheless, angler, guide, and subsistence user reports suggest an average to above average harvest in the sport and subsistence fisheries.



### Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

### Togiak River

Based on inseason reports from anglers, guides, and subsistence users, inriver king salmon abundance was good to excellent for the duration of the run from late June through late July and effort appeared to be average or slightly above average.

### Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



### Naknek River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 800,000-2.0 million fish for the Naknek River with an estimate of 2.2 million salmon.

### Management Actions

- On July 19, 2018, in all waters of the Naknek River drainage the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits increased from five fish to ten fish.

### Kvichak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 2.0-10.0 million fish for the Kvichak River with an estimate of 4.4 million salmon.

Through July 9, 2018, the escapement of sockeye salmon into the Kvichak River was not projected to achieve 2 million fish, which is the lower end of the SEG. Therefore, an emergency order was issued restricting the sport fishery. In addition to the restrictions in the sport fishery, the commercial fishery was limited to the Naknek River Special Harvest Area.

Subsequently, sockeye salmon escapement increased in the Kvichak River and ADF&G was able to project that the escapement would likely exceed 2 million fish; therefore, an emergency order was issued restoring sockeye salmon bag and possession limits and opening closed waters.

### Management Actions

- On July 12, 2018, in all waters of the Kvichak River / Lake Iliamna drainage the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were reduced from five fish to two fish. The bag and possession limit restrictions applied to the waters of the Kvichak, Newhalen, and Tazimina rivers and their tributaries, and Clark, Sixmile, and Iliamna lakes and all other tributaries into these lakes. The Alagnak River drainage was excluded from these restrictions.
  - In addition, sport fishing for sockeye salmon closed in the following waters to eliminate the potential for conflict between sport and subsistence fisheries:

1. In Alexi Creek and all waters within 150 yards of its confluence with Newhalen River.



2. The waters of Sixmile Lake and one-quarter mile downstream of Sixmile Lake in the Newhalen River and the lower one-quarter mile of the Tazimina River.
  3. All waters within one-half-mile of the confluence of Gibraltar River with Lake Iliamna.
  4. The waters of Kvichak River between ADF&G regulatory markers posted adjacent to the community of Igiugig.
- On July 14, 2018, in all waters of the Kvichak River/Lake Iliamna drainage the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were restored from two fish to five fish. In addition, the four areas previously closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon were reopened.

### **Alagnak River**

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the lower bound SEG of 320,000 fish with an estimate of 1.6 million salmon.

#### **Management Actions**

- On July 19, 2018, in all waters of the Alagnak River drainage the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits increased from five fish to ten fish,.

### **Nushagak-Mulchatna River**

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 370,000-900,000 fish with an estimate of 1.2 million salmon.

#### **Management Actions**

- On July 17, 2018, in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased from five to ten fish.

### **Wood River**

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 700,000-1.8 million fish with an estimate of 7.5 million salmon.

#### **Management Actions**

- On July 4, 2018, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased from five fish to ten fish, in all waters of the Wood River drainage.



### **Naknek River**

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance of coho salmon was good for the duration of the run from late July through early September and effort appeared to be near average.

#### **Management Actions**

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



### **Nushagak-Mulchatna River**

The preliminary estimate of coho salmon passing the Portage Creek sonar was 111,455 salmon. Coho salmon are managed to achieve an inriver return of 70,000-130,000 fish, to provide for 60,000-120,000 spawning salmon.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence catch information also indicated a relatively strong return during 2018. Approximately 74,000 coho salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not available; however, angler, guide, and subsistence user reports suggest an average to above average harvest in the sport and subsistence fisheries.

#### **Management Actions**

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

### **Togiak River**

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance was very good to excellent for the duration of the run from early August through early September and effort appeared to be near average.

#### **Management Actions**

- No management actions were implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements, 2008 to 2018 (preliminary).

System	2017 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Preliminary 2018												
	Lower	Upper																								
KING SALMON																										
Bristol Bay																										
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2003	74,781	56,088	102,258	167,618	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239												
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	1,957	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	917	1,283	435	NS												
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula																										
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	1,306	2,917	3,420	3,197	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155												
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	2,615	5,197	4,251	4,556	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149												
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	1,590	3,845	2,490	1,404	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825												
Nelson River	2,400	4,400	BEG	2004	2,048	2,767	1,704	1,192	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022												
Upper Cook Inlet																										
Alexander Creek	2,100	6,000	SEG	2002	275	177	343	181	588	911	1,117	754	170	296												
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	554	290	260	NS	NS	274	654	544	475													
Chuitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2002	1,040	735	719	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939												
Chulitna River	1,800	5,100	SEG	2002	2,093	1,052	1,875	667	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1,125												
Clear (Chumina) Creek	950	3,400	SEG	2002	1,205	903	512	1,177	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940												
Crooked Creek	650	1,700	SEG	2002	617	1,088	654	631	1,103	1,411	1,459	1,747	911	714												
Deshka River	13,000	28,000	SEG	2011	11,967	18,594	19,026	14,010	18,531	16,335	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544												
Goose Creek	250	650	SEG	2002	65	76	80	57	62	232	NC	NC	148	90												
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated <sup>d</sup>			2017	6,163	6,393	8,448	5,044	2,148	5,311	6,190	9,177														
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017									6,553	3,000												
	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017																						
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated			2017	21,390	16,210	19,680	27,710	15,395	16,263	22,626	18,790														
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017									20,731	16,957												
Lewis River	250	800	SEG	2002	111	56	92	107	61	61	5 <sup>b</sup>	0	0 <sup>c</sup>	0												
Little Susitna River (Aerial) <sup>f</sup>	900	1,800	SEG	2002	1,028	589	887	1,154	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530												
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017									2,531	549 <sup>g</sup>												
Little Willow Creek	450	1,800	SEG	2002	776	468	713	494	858	684	788	675	840	280												
Montana Creek	1,100	3,100	SEG	2002	1,460	755	494	416	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473												
Peters Creek	1,000	2,600	SEG	2002	1,283	NC	1,103	459	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1,674												
Prairie Creek	3,100	9,200	SEG	2002	3,500	3,022	2,038	1,185	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1,194												
Sheep Creek	600	1,200	SEG	2002	500	NC	350	363	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334												
Talachulitna River	2,200	5,000	SEG	2002	2,608	1,499	1,368	847	2,285	2,256	2,582	4,295	1,087	1,483												
Theodore River	500	1,700	SEG	2002	352	202	327	179	476	312	426	68	21	18												
Willow Creek	1,600	2,800	SEG	2002	1,133	1,173	1,061	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411												
Lower Cook Inlet																										
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	3,455	4,449	3,545	4,509	4,388	2,497	10,049	7,146	5,796	3,049												
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	483	387	696	447	475	601	535	NS	753	2,190												
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	528	605	668	555	571	891	874	572	855	944												
COHO SALMON																										
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula																										
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	9,583	6,239	5,298	4,906	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066												
Olds River	1,000		LB SEG	2011	697	NA	1,003	624	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000												
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	639	NA	1,061	427	841	1,595	530	500	410	300												
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	2,385	1,971	1,083	3,132	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200												
Upper Cook Inlet																										
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	4,400	SEG	2011	8,214	6,977	1,428 <sup>d</sup>	1,237	7,593 <sup>d</sup>	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022												
Jim Creek	450	1,400	SEG	2014	1,331	242	229	213	663	122	571	106	607	758												
Little Susitna River	10,100	17,700	SEG	2002	9,523	9,214	4,826	6,779	13,583 <sup>e</sup>	24,211	12,756 <sup>e</sup>	10,049	17,781	7,583												
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017									36,869	12,962												
SOCKEYE SALMON																										
Bristol Bay																										
Kvichak River <sup>f</sup>	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	2,266,140	4,207,410	2,264,352	4,164,444	2,088,576	4,458,540	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708												
Alagnak River (Tower) <sup>g</sup>	320,000		LB SEG	2007	970,818	1,187,730	883,794	861,747	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426												
Alagnak River (Aerial) <sup>h</sup>	125,000		LB SEG	2016								696,400	629,200													
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG <sup>i</sup>	2015	1,169,466	1,463,928	1,177,074	900,312	938,160	1,474,428	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152												
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	1,146,276	927,054	961,200	1,233,900	1,113,630	1,382,466	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354												
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	1,364,338	830,886	1,029,853	670,578	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792												
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,319,232	1,804,344	1,098,006	764,202	1,183,348	2,764,614	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254												
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	514,188	518,040	421,380	193,770	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426												
Nushagak River	260,000	760,000	OEG	2012	484,149	468,696	428,191	432,438	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701												
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula																										
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	BEG	2011	7,757	9,800	11,982	8,565	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281												
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	31,358	52,255	49,193	41,553	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601												
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	43,468	24,102	27,803	25,155	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845												
Pasagshak River	3,000		lower-bound SEG	2011	1,400	4,800	8,100	2,600	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019												
Karluk River	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	52,798	71,453	87,049	188,085	234,880	252,097	233,036	164,760	235,225	475,279												
Ayakulik River	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	200,648	201,933	177,480	213,501	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333												
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	101,845	94,680	134,642	148,884	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161												
Upper Cook Inlet																										
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	83,480	126,836	66,678	18,813	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	63,882	72,157												
Kasilof River	160,000	390,000	OEG	2011	324,783	293,765	243,767	372,523	487,700	438,238	470,677	239,981	358,724	394,288												
	160,000	340,000	BEG	2011																						
Kenai River <sup>j</sup>	OEG eliminated			2017	848,117	1,038,302	1,280,733	1,212,921	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,120,717														
	700,000	1,200,000	SEG	2011									1,055,091	NA												
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	52,178	27,074	29,129	24,115	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110												
Russian River - Late Run	30,000	110,000	SEG	2005	80,088	38,848	41,529	54,911	31,364	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052												
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	17,721	37,784	70,353	36,577	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438												
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	44,616	18,361	39,997	18,303	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844												
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	40,933	20,324	12,413	16,708	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444												
Lower Cook Inlet																										
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	18,183	12,253	9,920	3,444	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083												
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	12,700	23,775	20,190	10,887	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428												
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	16,000	6,320	9,630	8,840	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840												
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	10,364	8,880	9,608	8,031	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	12,755												